WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A-	1. A method for processing redundant electronic mail messages comprising:
3	receiving an electronic mail message; and
4	deleting the received electronic mail message if the received electronic mail
5	message is substantially similar to an available electronic mail message.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the deleting comprises determining whether the received electronic mail message was substantially unaltered by a sender of the received electronic mail message.

3. The method of claim & wherein the deleting comprises:

flagging the received electronic mail message if the received electronic mail message was substantially unaltered by a sender of the received electronic mail message; and

deleting the flagged electronic mail message.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the available electronic mail message comprises undeleted electronic mail messages stored in a memory device of the recipient terminal.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the undeleted electronic mail messages comprise previously opened electronic mail messages and unopened electronic mail messages.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the deleting is automatically performed if the received electronic mail message is substantially similar to the available electronic mail message.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the deleting is perform upon confirmation by a recipient of the received electronic mail message if the received electronic mail message is substantially similar to the available electronic mail message.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the available electronic mail message is

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substantially similar to the received electronic mail message if the available electronic mail message and the received electronic mail message have a substantially similar identifier field.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the identifier field comprises at least one from the group of user information, subject information and timestamp information.

10. A method for processing redundant electronic mail messages comprising: forwarding an electronic mail message addressed to at least one recipient terminal;

determining whether the forwarded electronic mail message is substantially similar to an available electronic mail message; and

deleting the forwarded electronic mail message if the forwarded electronic mail message is substantially similar to the available electronic mail message.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

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configuring control information for the electronic mail message to be forwarded;

sending the control information with the forwarded electronic mail message; and

processing the control information, where the determining is performed upon processing the control information.

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12. The method of claim 11 wherein the control information comprises a flag.

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13. The method of claim 11 wherein the control information is embedded in a header of the forward electronic mail message.

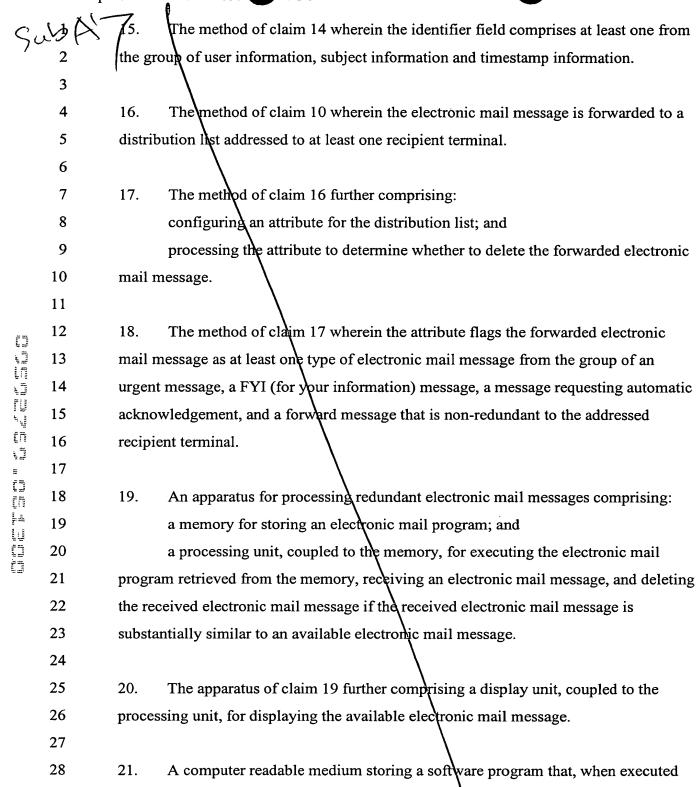
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14. The method of claim 10 wherein the available electronic mail message is substantially similar to the forwarded electronic mail message if the available electronic mail message and the forwarded electronic mail message have a substantially similar identifier field.



A computer readable medium storing a software program that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail message; and

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deleting the received electronic mail message if the received electronic mail message is substantially similar to an available electronid mail message.

Sc	12 X	22. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the deleting comprises
	3	determining whether the received electronic mail message was substantially unaltered
	4	by a sender of the received electronic mail message.
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	6	23. The computer readable medium of claim 22 wherein the deleting comprises:
	7	flagging the received electronic mail message if the received electronic mail
	8	message was substantially unaltered by a sender of the received electronic mail
	9	message; and
	10	deleting the flagged electronic mail message.
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يسية السية المستقالية بسية المستقال السية السية البيئة المستقالية المستقال مستقال المستقالية	12	24. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the available electronic
	13	mail message comprises undeleted electronic mail messages stored in a memory device
	14	of the recipient terminal.
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	16	25. The computer readable medium of claim 24 wherein the undeleted electronic
	17	mail messages comprise previously opened electronic mail messages and unopened
	18	electronic mail messages.
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5 = 5 5 = 5	20	26. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the deleting is
	21	automatically performed if the received electronic mail message is substantially similar
	22	to the available electronic mail message.
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	24	27. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the deleting is perform
	25	upon confirmation by a recipient of the received electronic mail message if the received
	26	electronic mail message is substantially similar to the available electronic mail
	27	message.

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The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the available electronic 28. mail message is substantially similar to the received electronic mail message if the available electronic mail message and the received electronic mail message have a substantially similar identifier field.

The computer readable medium of claim 28 wherein the identifier field

3 comprises at least one from the group of user information, subject information and

4 timestamp information.